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GOD'S BLUEPRINTS

NO.317

CHOSEN TO SUFFER

The glorious Gospel that calls sinners to repentance has been ringing in the world ever since Jesus was resurrected. It offers free salvation to all who believe. Paul wrote, *“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance”* (Rom.2:4).

Indeed, we come to God because of His goodness and His grace. No one ever has to work for it or strive to keep it. One needs to believe that Jesus Christ is their sacrifice to atone for all sins. It takes a daily walk with the Lord to enjoy a closer fellowship with Him, but to receive eternal salvation, one needs only to believe.

“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it (faith) is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast.” (Eph.2:8-9) Paul knew this when Paul and Silas spoke with their jailer who was trembling with fear and asked, *“...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”*(Acts 16:30-31)

In their zeal to get people converted to Christ, evangelists, pastors and ministers of the Gospel, often quote the parts of the Bible that do not pertain to all. They generalize words that are addressed only to those who are called, chosen and set apart for a purpose in God. Paul exhorted Timothy to *“rightly divide the word of truth.”* This would do away with a lot of confusion among Christians.

To His disciples, Jesus plainly said, *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you...”* (Jn.15:16) Another time He said, *“If ye were*

of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I HAVE CHOSEN YOU OUT OF THE WORLD, therefore the world hateth you.” (Jn.15:19) The elect did not volunteer for the task; they were chosen out of the world. They were chosen to suffer with Christ, in the world. They are misfit, not only in the world, but among the religions of the world too. Many Christians have literally given their lives for the truth of the Gospel. This is still happening as the spirit of antichrist is out to abolish the name of God and of His Christ from the face of the earth.

Paul tells us that we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world. And not only that, we were predestinated unto the “adoption” of sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”* (Phil.2:13) Please take note, Paul did not address this to whosoever believes; he addressed it specifically *“...to the saints, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus... According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...”* (Eph.1:1,4a)

THE PURPOSE OF SUFFERING

Eve’s disobedience was not a simple, innocent violation; she embraced the lies of the serpent, and became his enthusiastic admirer, and captive follower; she had not resisted evil. As a result, not only did the man and his wife become separated from God, their source of life, but they entered a realm of sin, suffering and death.

The Lord God told Eve that she would greatly suffer in giving birth, and told Adam that he would earn his living by the sweat of his brow. Death did not come

only at the end of their earthly life; death worked in them throughout life.

The realm of man's earthly life is a realm of suffering. Everyone suffers more or less. Death does not just happen at the time of the grave; death begins working in us from the time we are born. Humans often bring suffering onto themselves by the things they do or omit to do, but much suffering mostly happens seemingly undeserved.

Suffering is a great instrument in God's plan. He gave us bodies which are wide open to suffering, and our surroundings are filled with multitudes of deadly invaders, that cause diseases, decay, suffering and death to these vulnerable bodies. We use all kinds of means to protect these bodies from these things yet, it is through suffering that man matures in life and that sons mature in Christ. Without suffering, one does not grow. It is often through suffering that the ungodly turn to the Lord.

The Bible gives us many examples of suffering. However, the suffering of the saints is in a class by itself. Saints always suffer because of who they are, and who they represent. They suffer for their testimony yet it is through their testimony that they overcome the foe. Joseph suffered at the hands of his brethren, because God gave him dreams, and they felt threatened by him. Jesus suffered because He had power with God and the rulers were threatened by Him.

Many were persecuted because they were Christians. Today, we see this same evil spirit raising its ugly head in the world and in this country. There is a furious mob arising with fierce determination to rule the world with their ideologies. They are greatly threatened by Christians and Jews, and are out to destroy anyone who bears that name or the essence of that name.

Jesus was certainly not a stranger to suffering, yet, *"For the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him who endured such contradictions of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."* (Heb.12:2-3)

Saints suffer because it is God's will for them to suffer. Abraham must have been in agony when he lifted up the knife to slay his beloved son Isaac, and what about Moses, who chose *"...rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."* (Heb.11:25)

And what of the many saints who *"...were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented.; (of whom the world was not worthy) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth."* (Heb.11:36-38)

THE SON THAT EVERY EYE WILL SEE

"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERINGS." (Heb.2:10) For those who remain as little children in God's kingdom, the message of a rosy, easy life here on earth, may be appropriate. But for those who are called to be sons in His image, the Captain is sure to lead the way through much suffering.

When the Lord appeared to John in a vision, He revealed Himself as He is in His body and as He shall appear to all the kindreds of the earth. *"Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also that pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."* (Rev.1:7)

What John saw and what every eye shall see appeared *"in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as flames of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters."* (Rev.1:13-15 This is the Son that every eye

shall see, even those who pierced Him, and all the families of the earth who shall be brought to tears because of Him.

The One that John describes is one who has the mind of the Lamb who laid His life down, and who has acquired much knowledge and wisdom. His hairs were like “wool” which denotes the Lamb, and it was white like snow, which denotes the pure mind and righteousness of God. He stood in the midst of the “candlesticks,” which tells us that He is in the midst of His called out people, His church. He is the Christ who is risen within us.

His garment to the foot and the golden girdle, denote the Melchizedek, eternal priesthood of Christ, without beginning nor end of life. His eyes as flames of fire denote the vision that burns its way through all that is built to please the man of flesh. Paul calls it all “...wood, hay and stubble that shall be burnt up when it is revealed.” (see I Cor.4:12-13)

But what stands out the most are “His feet” and His voice. His feet were of “fine brass” and looked like they had been burnt in a furnace. Brass speaks of the Law, but this was FINE BRASS which speaks of the law that has been fulfilled in the fire. This Christ has fulfilled the Law by passing it through a furnace of fire. This speaks of the work of our Lord Jesus on the cross, but as we read further, we note that His voice is as the sound of many waters.

This Lord that is about to appear to the world, is not the Lord Jesus as He walked the earth alone and suffered the death of the cross to atone for the sins of the world. The One that every eye will see is the One with the voice of many waters. He is the complete Christ who has now found a place to lay His head. “*The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath no where to lay his head.*”(Matt.8:20)

This Christ is the One who was crucified on Calvary, and who has been crucified many times again in those who have been filling up the cup of His suffering. Paul was very clear about his sufferings. He declared, I Paul, “*Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflic-*

tions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church.” (Col.1:24) Then he added to the church, “*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, NOT ONLY TO BELIEVE ON HIM, BUT ALSO TO SUFFER FOR HIS SAKE.*” (Phil.1:29)

To the sons, he states, “*And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*” (Rom.8:17)

There are many more Scriptures that mention the sufferings of those who are called as heirs of God. These are only written words, but they become very real because we have passed them through the fire.

JOB

And then there is the exceptionally moving account of the sufferings of Job. Job’s sufferings open a window on how the things that God has purposed for us are executed in our lives. Because they did not know God’s ways, the counselors and pseudo-comforters that ministered to Job during his agonizing ordeal, tried their best to pin the guilt on Job. They may have sounded like men of wisdom, and some have quoted their words as if they were from God, but on closer look, we find that dear Job had nothing to do with the sudden devastation that came upon him and his family.

It was on a day when Satan was looking for something to do, that the Lord approached him with a deal that he could not refuse. When God offered Job to Satan, he was licking his chops, ready to devour.

“*And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth (turns away from), evil? And still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movest me against him, to destroy him without cause.*” (Job 2:3)

This is what the Lord God told Satan about Job. It is what He said to Satan about Jesus, and the same that He keeps saying to the devil, about those that are called according to His purpose. God has created the devil, Satan, for His purpose. Satan is a spirit. He is

not a person, but he works through the minds of persons. When we consider what he was able to do to Job, we also realize that God can loose him on someone and he can do much damage in their lives.

Should we be puzzled that God who is love, also sends the destroyer in His servant's lives? Yes we should, but we think as man thinks. It is only when God reveals His ways and His thoughts to us, that we begin to comprehend what happened to Job and to many, including us. Job's friends did not come near understanding what was happening to Job. Neither did his wife or even Job himself. They gave many reasons, and some sounded like true wisdom, but they were all the product of man's understanding.

Who would have thought that God approached Satan himself and gave him such an assignment? Perhaps, as sons in these last times, we are beginning to see the light, and to say as Paul, *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*(Rom.8:18)

There are many interpretations of the Book of Job; most assuming that what came upon Job was because he was blemished with self-righteousness. But God said Job was blameless. The reason for the calamities that descended upon Job was that God had seen him "perfect." The King James Version translates "blameless" as "perfect." Strong's Concordance gives it as "complete, pious, gentle and dear." The word "pious" means "dedicated and faithful." God said that Job was all of these things.

This was God's conclusion and it should be ours too. The tragic and painful situations Job walked through did not happen because he was self-righteous or evil, but because God saw him "perfect". Job was perfect for that day. We know that all humanity, including Job, fell in Adam. The prophet stated, *"There are none good, not one."* And our Lord Jesus said, *"There are none good but God."*

God did not turn Job over to Satan because he was testing to see if Job would pass the test. God knew that Job would pass the test. God tested him because He wanted Job to know that he could pass the test. He wanted Job to feel how strong the Spirit of God

really was deep down in him. He wanted Job to hear himself say, *"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him...He knoweth the way that I take, when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*(Job 13:15 and 23:10)

The time had come and Job was ready. He had gone through all the necessary paces and now Job had to know how perfect the Christ man in Job had become. Job's flesh would suffer and die, but the inner man that was inside of Job, had been through the discipline, teaching and fire of God, He had grown into a "perfect man." He declared, *"And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh I shall see God."* (Job 19:26)

The friends that spoke with Job while he was in the fire are the same that speak to us from within our own minds. They issue from the same one that sits on our shoulders day and night to discourage us and lay guilt upon us. They are the ones we have to overcome continually. We can be harassed and attacked by others who come against us for whatever reason they find, but they are of little effect compared to the power of the voices within us.

We have judged ourselves, and others, according to the "pseudo-holiness" that the church has taught us. We have come to the conclusion that if we do not read our Bibles daily, if we do not literally stay on our knees every morning and night, we are not righteous before the Lord, and He is not pleased with us. This is also where we are tested.

When we cannot **feel** God, when His Presence does not seem real in our lives, when we feel He has deserted us because we did not pray long enough or read our Bibles often enough, are we able to shove guilt out the door, and rise in faith knowing that our Father is there and will never leave us nor forsake us?

This is not easy in the midst of the fire, but it is just what Job did. When all his "comforters" blamed him and chastised him, Job was not swayed; *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed is the Name of the Lord."* (Job 1:21) These were some of Job's words to his accusers and they are ours too.

DECIPHERING THE BLUEPRINTS

Although scientists are not God, by radio carbon dating the age of rocks, they tend to agree that planet earth is over four-thousand billion years old, give or take a few hundred million years. This estimate is highly disputed by other scientists who conclude that creation is less than 10,000 years old. God dwells in eternity where it is timeless, so who really knows how long our planet has been in existence?

The other controversial question is “How long has life existed on the earth?” Scientists cannot deny that life, especially human life, had to come from supernatural intervention because it shows “intelligent design.” I cannot argue on that level, I can only declare what the Spirit of God has revealed to me. *“Where is the wise? where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”* (I Cor.1:20)

It is certain that the things of God cannot be understood by the natural mind, but God made sure that the creation of the “Adam” man be recorded in the Scriptures, which are the second witness to all that the Spirit reveals to us.

In all His created immensity, God had nothing and no one who was able to reflect or to represent His Person, His love, His glory. God was the UNKNOWN GOD of His entire creation. And so the Adam man was created with a very special purpose; he was created to reflect the image and likeness of God to His creation.

“The first man is from the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven...And as we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. (I Cor.15:47-48b) Jesus Christ is “...the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.” (Rev.3:14b)

God (Elohim) who is Spirit, and dwells in eternity, without beginning nor end, ordained a period of “time” with a beginning and an end. And He began to prepare the ONE, the PERSON who would declare His name (that is to say His nature), not only in the earth, but throughout His entire universe. Our Cre-

ator and God, desired that His creation know Him, and not only know Him afar off, but know Him in an intimate way.

The name Elohim, simply means God. Everything that has life and everything that is created, is part of God. The entire universe was part of the “thoughts” of God and by His Logos, (Word), He spoke all His thoughts into being. Everything and everyone existed as “thoughts” within God, before they took form in the visible realm. God did not create “out of nothing,” God’s entire creation came out of Himself.

The name, Elohim, is a grammatically plural Hebrew noun denoting that within the One God, there are other majesties. There are many anointed and informative studies from those who have researched the subject of the “names of God.” However, this is not an in-depth study on the subject, this is only meant to simplify what the Spirit is revealing at this time.

Paul tells us that God created all things BY HIS SON. The Son is the Word that spoke all things into the visible creation. In Eph.3:9, he explains, *“...God who created all things by Jesus Christ.”* And then he points to the Father’s dear Son, *“Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers, all things were created BY HIM, AND FOR HIM.”* (Col.1:15-16)

Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. He is the Word made flesh, *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.”* (Jn.1:14) Jesus Christ said, *“it is the spirit that quickeneth, (gives life) the flesh profiteth nothing; the WORDS that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.”* (Jn.6:63)

Beginning in the second chapter of the book of Genesis, the Son is the One who is called The Lord God or the One who is called Yahweh in Judaism. Christians translate Yahweh, Jehovah. He is part of the Elohim, the Almighty God that we find in the first chapter of Genesis, and in verses one to three of the second

chapter. Starting at verse four of chapter two, we are introduced to “The Lord God.” or the One, whose name we translate, Jehovah, the Son of God..

After Elohim had designed and composed His creation, His work was finished. *“And he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.”* (Gen.2:2) We are now entering God’s “rest” as all things are being completed in the earth. Because God so loved His creation, He separated the Son, out of Himself and handed Him the blueprints. He sent Him down into the earth. The Son had a huge assignment, a mission that no one else could perform.

I once had this dream, *“I was running to catch a jet plane. I was carrying a large roll of blueprints under my arm. I had to get on that plane because it was only when it reached its highest altitude that I could read and understand these blueprints.* End of dream. Indeed, it is only when we reach the highest place in Christ that we are able to comprehend the plan that our God has made for His creation. The Son is the One who not only reads them, but also begins the work of building them in earth.

Elohim had created the first man in His own image. *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”* (Gen.1:27) This was the man in the blueprints. When God handed the blueprints to the Son, the man had to be formed in the earth. *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living soul.”* (Gen.2:7)

The man that God had created was, in blueprints. The man that the Lord God formed was earthy, a living soul. This man was in touch with the earth and the visible world of the earth. The serpent was sly; he approached and seduced the part of the man that could receive a seed and reproduce the image of that seed, (the woman). This is why the Lord God told the serpent, *“I will put enmity between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise (crush) thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”* (Gen.3:15)

The first Adam, earthy man, could not keep his first estate; Eve corrupted his seed by mixing it with the seed of the serpent. Adam is not just an EARTHLY

man, that is to say, a dweller of the earth; he is an EARTHY man, a man whose substance is earth. This earthy man was now reproducing himself in the earth. He was born of woman and of water, but he was not born of spirit at all. He could only understand the things that pertained to the earthly creation. God’s “blueprints” had begun to take shape but the man had yet to be born of spirit. That would take a new birthing, and for that he needed a new Seed. The seed of the first Adam is corrupt and corruptible; it leads to the grave. This man Adam cannot live forever. How can this man possess a new Seed that will make Him a new creature after the likeness of the Son of God? This is a creation that begins as earthy and finishes as heavenly. This is a man that can live in the Spirit as well as in the earth. Indeed, the finished product is the man of God’s blueprints. He is son of God and son of man. He is both invisible spirit within, and visible man.

Phillip was having a hard time understanding who this man Jesus really was. Jesus patiently repeated, *“Don’t you believe that the Father is living in me, and I am living in the Father? Even my words are not my own but come from my Father, for he lives in me and performs his miracles of power through me.”* (Jn.14:10 Passion Transl.)

Simon Barjonah identified Him, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Jesus was the Christ. He was born of the incorruptible Seed of the Father. When John the Baptist baptized Him, the dove came down upon Him; He received the fulness of the Spirit and was declared to be the beloved Son of God. He was ready to go through the fire and the ultimate test of conquering death itself. Through death, He put an end to the first Adam and through resurrection He became the firstborn of a new creation of God in the earth. Every thing that has life in the earth begins with a SEED; Jesus produced that new, incorruptible Seed. He became the last Adam.

THE SON AND HIS BRIDE

When the Son of God declared to Peter, *“Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my church...”* He was speaking of the bride that He was going to raise up out of the ashes of old Israel, and from among the

lawless Gentile nations. From these two groups, He called out those who had been foreknown and predestinated from the foundation of the world; they knew His voice. They were set in the blueprints. *“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”* (Rom.8:29a-30)

Knowing this, Paul wrote, *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Rom.8:38-39) This means that ALL of these things WILL TRY to separate us from the love of God, but none will be able to. We now know this by experience.

The first one who presented herself as the bride of Jesus, prostituted herself with the rulers of this world. She had many lovers and deceived the faithful with counterfeit rites and rituals to keep them in strict obedience and submission to her rules. She became an abomination and the Lord calls her Mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots. Just as God had divorced his wife Israel for committing adultery with other gods, the Lord God called His own out of the great whore Babylon, and cast her away to be destroyed forever.

The prophet Jeremiah speaks clearly about Israel of old, *“And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had to put her away, and given her a bill of divorce...”* (Jer.3:8a) We are familiar with the call of our Lord, to all who were found among the Babylonish systems of man’s religions, *“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”* (Rev.18:4)

The Father, in His infinite wisdom chose a bride for His Son from the foundation of the world. She would know His voice and respond, and she would overcome and rise up out of the darkness into which she had fallen. She would follow the One who spoke of love and holiness to her innermost being. Paul told the church that this bride would yield unto the Lover

of her soul. She would let Him cleanse her from all spots, wrinkles and blemishes of the flesh. He would present her to himself a glorious bride, holy and without blemish. She would be bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh, *“For no man ever yet hateth his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church, (His bride).”* (Eph.5:29)

John saw her as she appears coming down from God out of heaven. She has been caught up in heavenly places, in the realm of Spirit, to learn of Him directly. Her garments denote her true identity. She has been described so many times by preachers and teachers, but the time is at hand when we shall see her in reality. We are this bride who has been made ready. We are this one who has spent time at the feet of the Master. She is the one who is about to birth His image in the earth.

And she is prepared *“...as a bride adorned for her husband.”* (Rev.21:2b) This bride is not a “woman” alone as the natural imagination would portray. She is called a “city.” She is a people who function together as one, with the same goal and desire. She is Jerusalem from on high. This is an allegory, but this is the way the Spirit communicates to us, to explain the realities of the invisible things of spirit.

“But ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect...” (Heb.12:22-23)

This bride adorned for her husband is the church of the Lamb. She is the one who is even now giving birth to a company of sons after the image of Jesus. She will not submit to another. She is fully ADORNED for her husband Christ. This is not the Christ that Peter identified. This is not the Christ that Mary saw at the tomb when she thought He was the gardener.

This is the Christ who has been formed from the incorruptible Seed that Jesus so painstakingly planted in the ground of our souls. This Christ is our new name that no man knows save he that receives it. He

is our new nature which is after the fruits of His Spirit. He is the Christ in us who overcame all the obstacles and hindrances that tried to stop us.

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.” (Rev.3:12)

This is who this bride is giving birth to. This is the bride, the city upon whom He has written His NEW NAME- HIS NEW NATURE. His bride is now one IN HIM. This new creation after the image of God is now as it appeared in God’s blueprints, male and female in one. There is no more need of separation for pro-creation after the flesh. *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”* (Gen.1:27)

Our Lord Jesus has not only redeemed us from sin and death, He has made us new. He has made us a creation that had never been seen before in the earth. A creation that existed only in the thoughts of the Father. Who would have ever thought of that?

As we continue to read the chapter, we learn what happens in the earth after this bride appears. We find that everything in the world is changing. None of the old can remain. The prince of this world has been defeated and now the One who sits upon the throne, Christ, has taken His place of honor. First, a great voice announces that the tabernacle of God is with men *“...and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be their God.”* (Rev.21:3)

Then, death is totally overcome. No more need for funeral directors. *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”* (Vs.4) We know all about the “former things,” and the world is getting their fill of them now.

At that time, there is a call from He who sits upon the throne. This is the One who has conquered all

evil and has fulfilled all things from beginning to end. *“And he said unto me, IT IS DONE. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.”* (Vs.6) This is for the rest of humanity. It is for all who are thirsty to drink pure water. They have been drinking of the polluted wells of man’s governments and man-made religions. But this water of the Word is the pure, clear water of life. Jesus told the woman at the well, *“But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”* (Jn.4:14)

And then comes the greatest promise of all. It is directed to those who have learned to take hold of the Christ Spirit within them, and resist the pressures and lies that continually push to invade their hearts and minds. They are the overcomers who chose to suffer with the people of God, rather than to climb the ladder that leads to earthly success, wealth and fame.

It is directed at those who turn away from the desires and deceptions of the flesh, and turn back to their first love of truth and holiness. *“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be MY SON.”* (Rev.23:7) The only begotten Son who came from the bosom of the Father, was already “My Son.” This son is the complete Christ in His body, the overcomer of death for the entire creation. The HEIR OF ALL THINGS.

“Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion (sons); put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city (church, bride), for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.” (Isa.52:1) And the Lord said to the prophet, *“...say unto Zion, Thou art my people.”* (Isa.51:16b)

“The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth, shall see the salvation of our God.” (Isa.52:10)

Blessed is the name of the Lord our God!

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*